

**ALERT!**  
**Important HSPA Information**

September 10, 2003

To: Chief School Administrator  
Charter School Lead Person  
School Principal

From: Isaac Bryant, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Student Services

Subject: Preliminary School Status under the *No Child Left Behind* Accountability Requirements

Under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB), the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) must implement a single accountability system to identify schools moving toward meeting the goal of 100% proficiency by the year 2014. This is a preliminary status report for high schools in the district using the new accountability standards and ***cycle 1 2003 High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) data***. Attached are two documents: a list of schools in your district that appear not to have made AYP in 2003 and *Understanding Accountability in New Jersey*.

*Understanding Accountability in New Jersey* provides the step-by-step process that is used to calculate adequate yearly progress (AYP) for all schools in New Jersey. A checklist chart is also included that summarizes the process.

The attached list of schools was compiled based on a review of the cycle 1 HSPA assessment results for grade 11 only, including the total student population at that grade and each subgroup represented. Students enrolled less than one academic year have been pulled from this report, those enrolled after September 15, 2002. Safe harbor calculations were made using 2002 baseline data compared to current year data. A five percent misclassification rate has also been applied to both total school and subgroup performance. Nevertheless, some special education and most limited English proficient students have not been counted in their home school; this adjustment will be made next year. Alternate Proficiency Assessment results have not been added to the special education calculations. Additionally, the secondary measure for the high school, drop-out rate, in both the aggregate and the student subgroups, has not been factored in the preliminary data at this time.

Assessment data from 2003 and 2002 were analyzed to generate this report. However, the results of this analysis are preliminary. A full summary report of the NCLB indicators will be issued within the next several weeks. Final status reports will be released in December 2003 using the final 2003 HSPA assessment data.

Please review your local data now. This data should be compared to the full summary report when it is released. At that time, any discrepancies in the data may be appealed.

Staff from NJDOE will be working with districts and schools to meet the goal of increasing the number of students that meet state standards. The state, regional and county office staff are available to work collaboratively with you. We are committed to providing the necessary supports to meet this challenge of meeting the new NCLB goals. We are all working together – striving for excellence in our schools; for our students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the community.

Thank you for your commitment to assure that all students in New Jersey meet high standards. If you have any questions or need further information about the NCLB single accountability requirements, please contact Linda Dold-Collins, director, Office of Title I Program Planning and Accountability at (609) 943-4283.

If you receive inquiries regarding this notice from the general public or the media, please redirect these calls to the NJDOE Office of Public Information at (609) 292-4041 for response.

IB/LDC/so

Attachments

c: William Librera  
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County Superintendents